A BOSTON MERCHANT OF MDCCXLV.

271. Gibson, das.

A

BOSTON MERCHANT

OF

1745:

OR,

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF

JAMES GIBSON,

A GENTLEMAN VOLUNTEER AT THE EXPEDITION TO LOUISBURG;

WITH A

JOURNAL OF THAT SIEGE, NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY.

BY ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

BOSTON:
REDDING AND COMPANY.
1847.

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Boston:
Printed by S. N. Dickinson & Co.
52 Washington Street.

DEDICATION.

TO THE
CONGREGATIONS
WORSHIPPING IN
"KING'S CHAPEL" AND THE "OLD
SOUTH," ALSO TO THE YOUNG LADIES OF
THE "BEACON HILL SEMINARY," AND
THE CITIZENS OF BOSTON GEN-
ERALLY, IS THIS LITTLE
WORK RESPECTFULLY
INSCRIBED.

INTRODUCTION.

1. USUALLY when a book is dedicated, it is done "by permission;" but in the present case, the author justifies himself in doing on his own responsibility that which no one would feel authorized to permit or prohibit.

2. It will doubtless be enough for the worshipers at King's Chapel to know that the hero of our story, in concert with his friend Gov. Shirley, who laid the corner-stone of that edifice, was quite as much attached to *the* church as he was to the crown; that this brought him and his amiable and intelligent lady into active mem-

bership with the only "Established Church" then existing in the town of Boston; and that his widow sleeps in the "old church-yard" contiguous to the chapel.

3. It is a melancholy fact to the writer, that, while he succeeds in finding the graves of his progenitors, he can find so little of their history. It is from our grandmother, the only child of Gibson, that we have the *manner* of his death. She lived to a great age. The writer has in his possession a letter that she wrote in her eightieth year, in which she says that there is a family in Boston by the name of Perkins, who knows all about her claims in England, referring to property which Parliament awarded to her father for services performed at the capture of Louisburg.

This letter was dated in 1816. It does not mention the given name of Perkins. Tradition in our family assigns them to the congregation worshipping in the "Old South Church." That there was a family in Boston who tenderly cherished the orphan of "Beacon Hill mansion house,"* ever after she went into the family of Rev. Mr. Niles of Braintree, we have still further evidence. If the descendants of such a family could be found, perhaps the writer, who is on a kind of pilgrimage upon the back track of his ancestors, might meet with some facts which may be quite gratifying to his antiquarian curiosity — which he

* Near the site of this mansion house the Rev. Hubbard Winslow has located the "Beacon Hill Seminary," for young ladies.

deems laudable, since he is almost without a relative in New England, belonging either to paternal or maternal side, and the only male descendant of Gibson's orphan daughter that he knows to be living in the United States.

4. It may appear somewhat singular, that the writer should have so little information respecting his immediate ancestors, living only one or two generations back; but the orphan daughter of Gibson dying while he was but a boy, and his mother also when he was quite young, and having no accessible relatives who can afford him any aid in this behalf, he is indulging the hope, that, by the circulation of this little book, he will fall in with some point of interest yet undiscovered.

5. If he should not be able to recover any farther information in this country, he does not doubt that the generous *citizens of Boston* will be gratified to purchase this book in such numbers as to enable him to seek among the descendants of the "ancient and honorable family of Gibsons" of the old world the more complete story of his ancestors.

After looking through the most important libraries in New England, the writer became satisfied that he had probably the only copy of this "Journal of the Siege" in America, which is the identical one that Mr. Gibson gave to his daughter on his return from England. Presuming that the Massachusetts Historical Society might deem the "Journal" worthy of their consideration, it was submitted

to the Hon. F. C. Gray, Chairman of the Publishing Committee, who returned it with a note from which we make the following extract:

"Dear Sir,—The siege of Louisburg is an object of so much importance in our provincial history, that an authentic journal kept by an officer engaged in that expedition cannot be without interest to our antiquarians," &c.

A

BOSTON MERCHANT

OF 1745.

JAMES GIBSON was born in London about the year 1700, and belonged, so says the inscription on his coat of arms, "to the ancient and honorable family of Gibson, of Cumberland, Essex, and London," and relative of Edward Gibson, the eminent antiquarian, and Bishop of London.

When a young man, he held a commission in the royal army, which was ordered to the island of Barbadoes. Here he remained some time, and married a young and wealthy widow, in the month of October, 1730. The original of the following certificate is now in the hands of the writer: —

"These are to certify to whom it may concern, that Mr. James

Gibson and Mrs. Thomazine Barton, widow, of this parish, were joined together in the holy state of matrimony, according to the canons of the Church of England, on the 30th day of October, 1730, by me,

THOMAS WARREN, Curate."

"Barbadoes, Parish of St. Michael."

Through this connection, James Gibson became possessor of a large plantation in the island of Jamaica. After a few years, he retired from his situation in the army, and remained in the West Indies.

Having often heard of the new colonies, and becoming acquainted with merchants who visited the islands for the purpose of trading, he was induced to come to New England with his lady; and, being pleased with the thriving appearance of the northern colonies, he brought his wealth and family to Boston, and became an extensive trader between that place and

the islands of Barbadoes and Jamaica.

Mr. Gibson was also a stockholder in the enterprise of building Long Wharf, and inhabited one of the finest buildings then to be seen on Beacon Hill.* He had but one child, a daughter.

In the year 1744, war was declared between France and Great Britain. George II. was upon the throne, and Sir William Shirley, then governor of Massachusetts.

The news reached Cape Breton, by a fast-sailing packet, three weeks before it was received in Boston; and this afforded the French a fine opportunity of making incursions into the

* It will be seen by referring to the Probate records, at Boston, that the administrator had two different times of rendering an invoice of Gibson's estate. In one of them the building referred to is called "the mansion house on Beacon Hill, Boston." Among other articles, "a brass sword and belt, and a silver snuff-box," are mentioned.

neighboring province of Nova Scotia. In this manner, Canso, a small fishing town, was taken by surprise; and the inhabitants, and a large number of vessels were captured, and taken to Louisburg, as prisoners of war.

These early attacks awakened the English colonies to their danger; and it soon became apparent, that Nova Scotia, and perhaps all the English settlements in North America, depended on the conquest of Louisburg, the strong fortress and capital of Cape Breton.

Some of the colonists, however, in defending the town of Anapolis, in a second incursion from the French, obtained some prisoners, whom they exchanged for the inhabitants of Canso, taken in the spring, and who brought an accurate account of the strength of the fortifications of Louisburg, to Boston.

From this account, Sir William Shirley, governor of Massachusetts,

conceived the idea of taking the city by surprise, before any farther aid could be obtained from France. In this he was encouraged, particularly by those who were engaged in the cod fisheries of Massachusetts and New Hampshire; as this branch of trade must be utterly suspended, while Louisburg remained in the hands of the French.

To obtain the opinion of the General Court, Sir William, early in January, requested its members to bind themselves, under oath of secresy, to receive from him an important communication. This was complied with, and he proposed his plan of attacking Louisburg, and asked their consent. This was kept a secret for a number of days from the public. At last it was discovered by an honest deacon, whose whole soul was so filled with the plan of the expedition, that he inadvertently made mention of it at his family devotions, by praying for its

success. The boldness of the proposal astonished every one. It was referred to a committee, who reported against it. This report, after some debate, was accepted by a considerable majority, and it was supposed that the subject was put to rest. The governor, however, was not thus to be defeated: he was a man of perseverance as well as decision. James Gibson he knew to be a man of weighty character, as well as weighty purse.

"After a few days," says Mr. Gibson, "I saw the governor walking slowly down King Street, with his head bent down, as if in deep study. He entered my counting-room, and abruptly said, 'Gibson, do you feel like giving up the expedition to Louisburg?' 'I wish the vote might be reconsidered,' was my reply; 'for unless the colonies make a bold strike, we may all suffer the same fate of Canso and Anapolis.'

"'You are the very man I need,' said the governor, springing from his chair. 'I have been thinking, if a petition were drawn up and signed by the merchants of Boston, asking a reconsideration of the whole matter, the result would be successful.'"

Before he left, Sir William had the pleasure of seeing the petition drawn up and signed by one bold man, and before night it was ready for presentation.

The next day it was read in the General Court, and another committee voted a reconsideration. This report was argued two whole days; during which time, its advocates presented the prospect of success, and the advantages Massachusetts would receive from it, the importance of immediate action, and the certainty that they would be amply remunerated by Parliament, when it was known to his Majesty what proof of loyalty his American subjects had given.

On the other side, it was argued with much greater plausibility, that the scheme was chimerical, that inexperienced militia could never reduce so impregnable a fortress, that by reason of fogs and ice the island could not be approached at that season of the year, that they should incur the displeasure of Parliament by such a rash undertaking, that the province was exhausted by previous campaigns, and if this were unsuccessful, it would prove its utter ruin. The question was taken on the 26th of January, and the expedition was voted by a majority of a single vote; several members who were known to be opposed, being absent. No sooner, however, was this done than a degree of unanimity upon the subject generally prevailed; and those who had previously opposed it, like true patriots, came forward, and gave their aid in carrying it into effect. Never were a people more enthusiastic, or enter-

tained stronger hopes of success, than the people of Massachusetts at that time. Letters were immediately sent to Pennsylvania and other colonies, requesting their assistance.

Governor Shirley soon made proclamation for raising the necessary forces; and measures were taken for equipping the small fleet, then owned by the province, for the purpose of conveying the troops. The governor also sent to the commander of the British fleet at the West Indies, requesting aid.

The island of Cape Breton, on which Louisburg is situated, constitutes at present a part of the Province of Nova Scotia. It is of triangular form, and eighty leagues in circumference. Its western and northern shores are steep, rocky, and inaccessible; while its south-eastern is indented with beautiful bays and harbors, safe for ships of the largest size. Its soil is barren, and a large portion of the

year the island is either enveloped in fog, or locked up with snow and ice. Its entire population, at the present time, does not exceed 30,000, most of whom are engaged in the fisheries, and in the coal and lumber trades.

Louisburg has frequently been called the "Dunkirk of America." For a description of it, I use the words of Dr. Belknan:—"It was two miles and a half in circumference, fortified in every accessible point, with a rampart of stone, from thirty to thirty-six feet high, and a ditch eighty feet wide. A space of two hundred yards was left without a rampart, on the side next the sea, and enclosed by a simple dike and pickets. The sea was so narrow at this place, that it made only a narrow channel, inaccessible, from its numerous reefs, to any shipping whatever. On an island, at the entrance of the harbor, which was only four hundred yards wide, was a battery of thirty cannon; and at the

bottom of the harbor, directly opposite to the entrance, was the ground, or royal battery, of twenty-eight, forty-two, and eighteen pound cannon. On a high cliff, opposite the island battery, stood the lighthouse; and at the north-east part of the harbor was a magazine for naval stores.

"The town was regularly laid out in squares. The streets were broad, and the houses mostly built of wood and stone. The entrance to the town was at the west gate, over a draw-bridge, which was protected by a circular battery of cannon.

"These works had been twenty-five years in building, and, though not finished, had cost France not less than thirty millions of livres. It was in peace a safe retreat for the French ships bound homeward from the East and West Indies; and in war, a source of distress to the northern English colonies; its situation being extremely favorable for privateers to seize their

fishing vessels, and interrupt their coasting and foreign trade; for which reasons, the reduction of it is said to have been as desirable an object as that of Carthage ever was to the Romans."

Such was the place that the people of New England proposed to take by surprise in 1745. It was, perhaps, as impregnable as nature and art could make it, and was probably considered as safe by France then, as Gibraltar is by the English at the present day. Its reduction was suggested and accomplished by a train of circumstances as remarkable as the event was glorious. It was very properly said by a writer of the day, that "if, in this expedition, any one circumstance had taken a wrong turn on the French side, it must have miscarried."

In all this preparation, James Gibson was not an idle spectator. Seeing the difficulty of raising volunteers from the poor and hard-working men

of the colony, he also became a volunteer. Already possessing the commission of captain of the royal army, he actually hired a company of three hundred men, whose wages he paid regularly from his own property.

Thus four thousand men were raised in the several colonies. The time was appointed for the fleet to sail. The greatest difficulty to be surmounted was the appointment of a commander-in-chief. This was attended with some difficulty, as they were raw soldiers, taken from all the New England provinces, and feeling in some degree a jealousy of each other. The choice at length fell upon William Pepperell, of Kittery, then a colonel of the militia, and a merchant of good reputation, known extensively both in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Before accepting the appointment, Pepperell consulted the famous George Whitfield, who was then travelling through New England, upon its expe-

diency. Whitfield told him he did not think the situation very promising; that the eyes of all would be upon him; that, if it should not succeed, the widows and orphans of the slain would reproach him; and if it should succeed, many would regard him with envy, and endeavor to eclipse his glory—that he ought therefore to go, with a single eye, and then he would find his strength proportioned to his necessity." After some time he gave a motto for the flag, which was "Nil desperandum, Christo duce," thereby giving the expedition an air of a crusade. It is said that a large number of the followers of Whitfield enlisted; and as a proof of the religious feeling by which they were actuated, one of them, a clergyman, carried upon his shoulder a hatchet for the purpose of destroying the images in the French churches.

Few men could leave their families under more trying circumstances than

James Gibson. Without a single relative in North America, nearer than the West Indies, his wife was to endure alone the suspense of this hazardous and doubtful expedition, and remain behind with her little daughter in Boston. But, in the midst of present trial or future solicitude, the firm hearts of the colonists did not quail. Under these circumstances, on the 25th of March, Mr. Gibson took leave of his family, of his tender and confiding wife and child, and joined the troops which on that day left Boston for the island of Nantucket, the rallying point of the expedition.

The fleet sailed from Nantucket with 4,300 men, 4,000 being furnished by the colonies, and 300 by Mr. Gibson. After a prosperous voyage, it appeared in view of the little town of Canso. As it was yet in the early spring, the ice rendered the bay impassable, and they were thus pre-

vented from landing at the intended point. In this hour of perplexity, Commodore Warren, the commander of the British troops at the West Indies, unexpectedly arrived with a man-of-war, to their assistance. This aid inspired the army with new courage, and elated them with a prospect of success. On the 29th of April, the ice having broken up, the fleet sailed for Louisburg, a distance of about sixty miles, where they arrived the next morning.

This was the first notice to the inhabitants of Louisburg of the intended invasion.

An alarm was instantly given, and our fleet was ushered into the bay by a ringing of bells and discharge of cannon. A detachment of 150 men were sent to oppose their landing, but were soon repulsed by the New Englanders, who without further molestation landed their troops and mili-

tary stores, about four miles below the city.

On the following night, two merchants from the Colonies — James Gibson and Captain Vaughan, with 400 men, marched through the woods and round the hills, to the northeastern part of the harbor, and burned many large warehouses containing a quantity of wine and brandy, making a fine beacon light.

This siege continued forty-eight days, and was carried on by undisciplined colonists against a well-trained army, and a fortification stronger than almost any in the world.

Of the events of this siege, in which our army gained a glorious triumph, Mr. Gibson kept a regular Journal, which was published afterward at London, and a copy presented to King George. A notice of this Journal appeared in a contemporary number of the "Gentleman's

Magazine,"* a periodical which has been continued for upward of 200 years.

This Journal has never been reprinted in America. After searching through the principal libraries of New England, we are certain that few persons have ever seen it in this country.

We have learned of late that societies are seeking to obtain more extended information respecting this expedition, and therefore give this Journal entire to our readers.

* The "Gentleman's Magazine" is regarded as the greatest periodical in the English language. Copies of it, for nearly two hundred years, are to be seen in the Boston Athenæum. Several notices of Gibson and his Journal are to be found in this work. The one alluded to above is in the 15th volume, page 649.

By calling on S. G. Drake, Esq., the indefatigable proprietor of the Antiquarian Bookstore on Cornhill, the reader can see the original copy of the following Journal.

A

JOURNAL

OF THE

LATE SIEGE,

BY THE

TROOPS FROM NORTH AMERICA,

AGAINST

THE FRENCH AT CAPE BRETON, THE CITY OF LOUISBURG, AND THE TERRITORIES THEREUNTO BELONGING.

SURRENDERED TO THE ENGLISH, ON THE 17TH OF JUNE, 1745, AFTER A SIEGE OF FORTY-EIGHT DAYS.

BY JAMES GIBSON,

GENTLEMAN VOLUNTEER AT THE ABOVE SIEGE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. NEWBURY, AT THE BIBLE AND SUN, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

MDCCXLV.

DEDICATION

To the Commissioned Officers of the Troops at the late Siege against the City of Louisburg, and the Territories thereunto belonging in North America.

My Dear Brethren and Fellow Soldiers,

Pursuant to your request, I here present you with a Journal which I kept whilst the siege was laid against the city above mentioned. If it should contribute in the least to your pleasure in the recollection of that signal victory which you obtained, by the blessing of God, through your great courage and good conduct, over your enemies at Cape Breton, or be of service to you in any other respect whatever, I shall not think my labor ill bestowed.

Gentlemen, as you voluntarily left your families, your fortunes, your occupations, and whatever else you held

most dear, to enter the field in the service of your country against the strong holds of a potent enemy; against a well-walled and well-garrisoned city; against strong batteries, in short, and large cannons, I heartily congratulate you on your good success, and doubt not but your heroic achievements will be transmitted down with honor to latest posterity.

In regard to the poor soldiers, who left their families and their respective callings for no other consideration than fourteen shillings sterling per month, besides the prospect of a little plunder, as occasion offered, of which they were disappointed, — I hope they will be taken care of, and meet with a reward in some measure proportioned to their service and their merit; since their disappointment was wholly owing (as you are sensible) to our generous treatment of the enemy, even when we had secured our conquest; for, by the terms of capitula-

tion, the French were not only allowed to carry off all their effects without the least molestation, but were transported at our expense to Old France, insomuch that the soldiers, as I before hinted, had no opportunity of making any advantage of their good success, which otherwise they might have considerably improved.

The place, gentlemen, which we have thus happily made our own, may with propriety be called the key of Canada and North America. The island is near a hundred miles long; and has several fine harbors in it, very commodious for the fishery, whereof that at Louisburg is the principal. The city is not only well walled, but, as it has several wide trenches and flankers, it may properly be said to be completely garrisoned. There is likewise a very grand battery, directly opposite to the mouth of the harbor, the ordnance whereof consists of

above thirty pieces of cannon, all forty-two pounders.

The Island Battery, moreover, which is planted at the mouth of the harbor, is of equal strength and force.

Opposite to the Island Battery there is also a very fine and commodious light-house, as well as a noble harbor for the largest ships.

Near the shore and grand banks, which are about twenty leagues' distance, there are fish in abundance. As to the climate, it is exceeding fine for curing fish, and rendering them fit for a foreign market. Here are mackerel and herrings in plenty, both fat and large, for baits.

The land here produces very good wheat, rye, and barley; and the meadows, the best of grass. Besides these commodities, here are fine beach wood and flake for the mutual benefit of the industrious fisherman and the farmer.

This port commands not only Cape

Sable Shore, Canco, and Newfoundland, but the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and, by consequence, Canada. It is a safeguard likewise to the whole fishery, as well as to foreign vessels.

I have been informed by a French gentleman, that the settlement of the island of Gaspey cost his Most Christian Majesty nine million and a half of money; and, since the war commenced, the repairs that have been made to all the several batteries have been attended with great expense. As to my own particular part, no sooner was the expedition proposed at Boston in New England by the government, but I instantly promoted the same; and through my means some hundreds entered into the service.

And as I had the honor to bear his Majesty's commission in the royal regiment of foot guards in Barbadoes, by virtue of that commission I voluntarily engaged in this expedition, without the least pay or allow-

ance for my service or provision during the whole siege. And no sooner was it over, but I assisted in the transportation of the French inhabitants to Old France; having passed my word to proceed in a transport both to France and England. Give me leave here to remind you of my readiness to serve this expedition in all respects. You remember, I doubt not, the tedious marches which I made after the enemy, and the imminent danger I was in at the north-east harbor, which is about ten miles from the grand battery, where, with four men only, I was loading a schooner with plunder. Whilst we were busy in the house where our cargo lay, no less than a hundred and forty French and Indians, with a shout, fired a volley against it; whereupon two of the men jumped out of the window, and were shot dead, even after they had cried out quarter. After this, though the French and In-

dians entered the house, the two other men and myself so happily concealed ourselves as that we were not discovered. Some short time after, they withdrew, and we made our escape to the grand battery, though with great fatigue; for we were forced to take to a thick wood, and run through great swamps, not daring to appear in the road, for fear of surprise. At last, God be thanked, we arrived safe at the grand battery, and received the repeated congratulations of our friends on account of our happy deliverance, which was looked upon as almost miraculous.

I hope, gentlemen, I shall not be thought vain in making mention of one other dangerous exploit, in which likewise I came off with success.

At about two o'clock in the morning, with the assistance of but five men, I carried a fire-ship under the guns of the city batteries to the King's Gate, where I set fire to the

train; and so quick was the effect of it, that I lost my breath till I got upon deck. After this, we went in our boat under the guns of the circular battery, before we could go over to the west side of the harbor, for fear of being discovered by the fire. The French, indeed, fired several times at us; but we happily received no damage. We arrived safe soon after, at the grand battery; and no sooner had the fire took the powder, but it tore up the decks of the ship, and threw such a quantity of stones into the city, that they not only broke down a large spire of the King's Gate, but the end of a large stone house, and burnt three small vessels, &c., besides.

As the morning was very dark, the inhabitants were strangely surprised at such an unexpected act of hostility. I have nothing further to add, but that I have prefixed to this Journal a Plan of the city, the garrisons, the harbor, and light-house, &c., which I hope

will meet with a favorable reception from you, and be thought at the same time an acceptable service to the public. As to what batteries shall hereafter be thought necessary to be built, or what repairs ought immediately to be made to those that are still standing, I hope a true and faithful account thereof will speedily be delivered in to those whom it may more immediately concern, and that proper persons who are well wishers to their king and country may be appointed, as soon as conveniently may be, to put the same in execution. I am, with all due respect, gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

JAMES GIBSON.

Dated July 3, 1745, in Louisburg Harbor, on board the Speedwell, bound for France with French inhabitants.

P. S. I shall here take the liberty to transcribe a letter verbatim, which I received from Major William Hunt.

Royal Grand Battery of King George the Second, at Cape Breton, in North America, July 4th, 1745.

CAPT. JAMES GIBSON,—

I do, in behalf of myself and others, the commissioned officers, return you hearty thanks for the copy of your Journal during the siege against the city of Louisbourg, at Cape Breton; and as you are going to France with the French inhabitants, and so for England, we wish you success, and that you may, for your charge and courage, have great encouragement, as you did so voluntarily proceed in the above expedition at your own expense. I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,

WILLIAM HUNT, *Major.*

A

JOURNAL

OF THE

SIEGE OF THE CITY OF LOUISBURG.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30th, 1745.

THIS day our men of war, privateers and transports, arrived safe at Caboruch Bay in Cape Breton, from Canco, where we lay from the second day of this instant April, to the 28th, at which time we anchored within five miles of the city of Louisburg.

No sooner were our whale boats got out in order to land our troops, but Capt. Morepang came down from the city with fourscore and seven men to prevent their attempt. Our privateers, however, lying at anchor

near the shore, fired smartly at them; and in the mean time we landed some hundred of men, who went in pursuit of the enemy. We killed six of them, and took five prisoners, and, in short, totally beat them off. Nay, more, we prevented them from getting into the city, and obliged them to fly for shelter into the woods.

Wednesday, *May* 1. Our troops marched towards the grand battery, and set fire to ten houses, the inhabitants being fled into the city. The flames so surprised the soldiers in the aforesaid battery, that both they and their captain (one Carey by name) made the best of their way by water into the city; whereupon several of our companies took possession of the place, and at daybreak hoisted up King George's flag.

Thursday, 2. The French, perceiving the English flag hoisted up, fired shot and bombs from the island battery, and all the other batteries in the

city, against the grand battery incessantly, day and night, but to no purpose, for they all went over us. Wherever they saw two or three men together, they would send a bomb or a parcel of shot after them. The guns which we found in the grand battery were plugged, and their carriage wheels, &c., cut by the French.

Friday, 3. The city and batteries fired smartly all day and night with bombs and cannon against the grand battery. One of our guns being drilled, we fired into the city; and the first shot, being unexpected, killed fourteen men.

Saturday, 4. The city batteries, &c., played as fast as possible with bombs and cannon against our grand battery. As we had two of our guns drilled, we fired against the city with good effect; for we took St. John's and St. Peter's, and burnt them. We took likewise about twenty prisoners; but the others made their escape in

the woods. We took, moreover, several small vessels and some plunder.

Sunday, 5. The French fired but a few guns and bombs against us. This day the first Protestant sermon was preached in the mass-house at the grand battery. The text was taken out of the 100th Psalm, verses 4 and 5. In the evening we fired smartly against the city with our two pieces of cannon.

Monday, 6. Our company, consisting of ninety-six men, marched to the north-east harbor, which was ten miles from the grand battery, and drove the inhabitants into the woods. Our grand battery, having several guns drilled, fired smartly against the city and island battery: they, however, fired but seldom at us.

Tuesday, 7. Our scout at the north-east harbor loaded a schooner with plunder, and a shallop with excellent fish. Though the city and other batteries fired smartly against

the grand battery, yet they did no damage. We, on the other hand, having several guns drilled, fired smartly against the city and island battery, and every gun did execution.

Wednesday, 8. The grand battery fired all day against the island battery and city, with good effect; the city and other batteries, however, fired but seldom at us. One of our guns happened to split, by which accident one of our men was hurt.

Thursday, 9. Our grand battery, having twenty guns drilled, and their carriages repaired, fired smartly against the city and island battery. We saw several shots go through the roofs of three houses; as also several chimneys, and the ambeseers of the batteries knocked down.

Friday, 10. A small scout of twenty-five men got to the north-east harbor. I and four more being in a house upon plunder, 140 French and In-

dians came down upon us first, and fired a volley, with a great noise. Two jumped out of the window, and were shot dead. With great difficulty the other two and myself got safe to the grand battery. They afterwards killed nineteen of the remaining twenty.

Saturday, 11. A company this day marched to the north-east harbor, and buried the men that were killed yesterday. They burnt likewise every house in the place, with the mass-house, fish stages, and warehouses. They destroyed, moreover, about 100 shalloways, and took forty prisoners. The grand battery fired smartly against the city.

Sunday, 12. Not one gun fired from the island battery this day. The grand battery, however, and our other batteries fired smartly against the city to very good effect; for not a gun was returned. We had a sermon in the mass-house at the grand battery.

The text was taken from the 27th verse of the ninth chapter of the Hebrews: 'And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.'

Monday, 13. At three o'clock this afternoon, a large French snow came round the light-house, the wind being east-north-east. She was obliged to run into the harbor of Louisburg. Though our grand battery and other battery fired at her, yet she kept close aboard the island battery and the city, till she grounded against the King's Gate. This vessel came from France, laden with stores for the fishermen. This was the only vessel that got in after we had taken possession of the grand battery. The city and island battery fired as fast as possible against the grand battery till the snow

grounded. At night we got a large schooner, filled with combustibles, put a small sail on her, and carried her between the island battery and the city. So soon as the fire took the train, the French fired from the city and island battery against the schooner, and the grand battery, no less than thirty shot. One of our men was killed by landgrage, and several were wounded. Our gunner likewise was killed at our fascine battery, through the misfortune of a gun's splitting.

Tuesday, 14. There was a northeast storm of wind and rain this day. The city fired smartly against our fascine battery. Our batteries, on the other hand, fired against the city with good effect. In order to prevent the loading of our guns at the fascine battery, the French fired small arms, as soon as we had discharged our cannon; but they did no manner of execution.

Wednesday, 15. This day the city

fired several bombs and guns against our fascine battery. We fired twenty-eight guns and several bombs, which did great execution in the city; for they broke down the wall of the circular battery and the ambuseers.

Thursday, 16. Our artillery from the Green Hill threw above fifty bombs and balls into the city, which drove down chimneys and roofs of houses. The city, indeed, fired smartly; but not a gun was heard from the island battery. Two of our guns at the grand battery split, by which misfortune two of our men were wounded.

Friday, 17. Captain Rouse convoyed six transports from Boston with four months' provision for our land army. Capt. Gayton, likewise, arrived from Boston with military stores. The city fired smartly all day against our fascine battery, and the island battery threw three bombs against the grand battery. We

dragged several forty-two pounders from the grand to the fascine battery, notwithstanding it was two miles distant, and the way rough. 100 French went out of the city by water, and landed at the back of the light-house, in order to cut off our men; but as we were apprised of their intention, we engaged them, killed three, wounded several, and took the captain of their company prisoner. One of our Indian friends was hurt very much by the splitting of one of our guns.

Saturday, 18. The city fired as fast as possible against our fascine battery and artillery at the Green Hill. We, on the other hand, shot several of the French with our small arms, at the city wall from our fascine battery, as it was but twenty-five roods' distance.

Sunday, 19. This day a sad accident happened at our fascine battery. Two barrels of powder took fire, and

killed seven of our men. Though all our batteries fired smartly against the city, yet the island battery did not fire a gun for several days; and the last shells they threw were half filled with bran; from whence we might reasonably conjecture, that they grew short of powder. We had a sermon preached to-day, and the text was the 11th verse of the 17th chapter of Exodus: 'And it came to pass when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.'

Monday, 20. Two French ships and a snow were taken and sent into Caboruch Bay. Commodore Warren and the other ships are still out in chase of a man-of-war. The city fired all day against our fascine battery. All our batteries fired so smartly against the city, that some of the ambuseers on the south side were beaten down at the circular battery. 200 of our men marched on a scout

to the north-east harbor. Captain Fletcher sent his boat ashore to take in water, ten were killed, and four escaped.

Tuesday, 21. This day the scout of 200 men returned to the grand battery, and brought with them a French doctor, and seven other captives, having first burned the mass-house, and all the other houses; as also destroyed a considerable number of fishing shallops and the fish stages. Commodore Warren sent in the French man-of-war that had been chased for several days. She is a fine new ship of sixty-four guns, called the Vigilant, and laden with stores, a great number of large guns, and a large quantity of powder, besides stores for the city of Louisburg, and other stores for a seventy-gun ship which is building at Canada. A large brigantine arrived this day from France, and came into our fleet through mistake, as the weather was

very foggy. She was laden with brandy and stores. A scout of 200 men marched out after some hundreds of French and Indians who were coming down, as we heard, upon our camp. The scout returned, the enemy moving off, and brought in seven cows and several calves and goats, &c. Our small battery, with two pieces of cannon, fired on the city, and did great execution; and notwithstanding our other battery fired smartly against the city with good effect, yet the city did not return a gun; neither had the island battery fired a gun for several days. At the King's Wharf, we found thirty pieces of cannon sunk, from six to twelve pounders. This is the place where the men-of-war heave down. It is a long wharf, that is planked for spreading and mending of sails; and a large ship may lie along side of it. The Vigilant lost sixty men; we, only five.

Wednesday, 22. This day the city

fired as quick as possible against us; we, on the other hand, shot several of the French who were on the city wall, with our small arms from the fascine battery; and, as the French gunner was luckily killed likewise in the city by another shot, they hoisted their flags half mast upon that occasion. This day a fifty-gun ship joined our fleet.

Thursday, 23. This day a great number of our men were busily employed in furnishing near fifty of our whale boats with paddles, ladders, &c.; and, about twelve o'clock, 500 men of the land army and marines embarked from on board the man-of-war, with a view of making themselves masters of the island battery; but at that time there arose such a prodigious fog, that they could not see where to land, notwithstanding they were in the nut of the shore. When it began to clear up, they were obliged to draw off, though at that time there

were but fourteen men in the island battery.

Friday, 24. The fleet this day appearing off the mouth of the harbor, made a gallant show. At night, five of our men and myself went on board a ship which we first filled with combustibles, and then carried her under a small sale by the iron battery till we had grounded her against the King's Gate belonging to the city. No sooner was the train set on fire, but the city fired smartly against us; and when we took boat, we were obliged to row under the mouth of their cannon, till we got on the western side of the harbor. This fire-ship did as much execution as we could reasonably expect; for it burnt three vessels, and not only beat down the pinnacle of the King's Gate, but great part of a stone house in the city; and, as this was transacted in the dead of the night, it put the inhabitants into an uncommon consternation.

Saturday, 25. This day the fascine battery fired smartly against the city wall, and not only beat down a great part of it, but much damaged the citadel, which gave us great hopes of success. The city, indeed, in return, fired both their cannon and their small arms against the said battery, but to little or no effect.

Sunday, 26. This day, a scout, consisting of 153 men besides myself, marched to the west-north-west part of this island, which is twenty-five miles' distance, or thereabouts, from the grand battery. We found two fine farms upon a neck of land that extended near seven miles in length. The first we came to was a very handsome house, and had two large barns, well finished, that lay contiguous to it. Here, likewise, were two very large gardens; as also, some fields of corn of a considerable height, and other good lands thereto belonging, besides plenty of beach wood and fresh water.

In this house we took seven Frenchmen and one woman, prisoners. It was not much more than five hours before our arrival, that 140 French and Indians had been killing cattle here, and baking bread, for provisions in their march against our men, who were at that time possessed of the light-house. These were the very same band, or company, that murdered nineteen of our men at the north-east-harbor on the 10th instant, and shot the two men that jumped out of the window, as is more particularly mentioned in the article of that day. At that unhappy juncture they took one Sergeant Cockrin prisoner; and notwithstanding he had made it his whole study from that time to humor and oblige them, yet, after a dance this day, they fell upon him, and in a most barbarous manner cut off the ends of his fingers; after that, they slit them up to his hand. When this scene of cruelty was over,

they entered upon a new one; and in the first place cut off the tip of his tongue, and in an insulting manner bid him speak English; after that, they cut off some part of his flesh, and made one of his fellow-prisoners eat it; they then cut his carcass up like a parcel of inhuman butchers, and, to show their last marks of malice and resentment, threw it into the sea.

The other house was a fine stone edifice, consisting of six rooms on a floor, all well finished. There was a fine walk before it, and two fine barns contiguous to it, with fine gardens and other appurtenances, besides several fine fields of wheat. In one of the barns there were fifteen loads of hay, and room sufficient for three score horses and other cattle. At our departure from the first farm, we set all we left behind us on fire; and turning back, at a small distance, we saw some hundreds of the enemy hovering round the flames. We likewise

set fire to, and reduced the last farm as well as the first to ruins. Here we took three men in a boat which was laden with provisions and sailing down to the city of Louisburg. This last house was situated on the mouth of a large salmon fishery which was some few roods wide; and, about half a mile above it, there was a large pond of fresh water, which was near four miles over.

Monday, 27. This day we returned with our scout, consisting of 154 men, to the grand battery, all well, and in high spirits. At twelve o'clock our whale-boats were well fixed with ladders; and two hundred men at least, if not more, attempted to scale the walls of the island battery. The French discovered the same; and as soon as our boats came near to shore, the French fired their large cannon loaded with landgrage, which destroyed several of our boats as well as our men. Those that actually landed

fought till sunrise, and then called for quarter. Out of the number that went to the island battery, 154 of our men were missing. By two that deserted from the French, we were informed that 118 of our men were taken and carried prisoners into the city; so that in that bold attempt we lost only six and thirty men. The French who were at that time in the battery, were between 300 and 400.

Tuesday, 28. This day, not only the grand battery, but our other batteries, fired smartly on the city. We saw the shot beat down several chimneys, and go through the roofs of several houses. This day a scout of 400 men marched towards Scatteree, upon information that a great number of French and Indians were marching towards our camps in order to cut them off. As our scout was marching down a hill at the north-east harbor, they came all on a sudden upon 160 French and Indians, who, in a

great consternation, ran up another hill that was full of trees and fortified with rocks. As our people were only in an open garden, as it were, the French and Indians fired smartly at them; but, notwithstanding their advantageous situation, we killed thirty-seven and wounded forty-one, as we were informed by the French captain's wife, whom we had taken prisoner: and they killed only ten of ours. The French and Indians made off in such a hurry, that they did not stay to bury their dead. This was the same company that was at the west-north-west neck of land on Sunday the 26th instant. We took their shalloways laden with provisions, &c.

Wednesday, 29. This day our scout, consisting of 400 men, marched to Scatteree, where we burnt several houses, and took six men and three women prisoners. Scatteree is about twenty miles from the grand battery. Last night we (for I was amongst

them) lodged in the woods. The French and Indians drew off. Our batteries fired smartly against the city.

Thursday, 30. This day our scout above mentioned of 400 men returned to the grand battery, well and in high spirits, &c.

Friday, 31. Rain and fog. Not a gun was fired this day on one side or the other.

Saturday, *June* 1. This day our batteries played smartly against the city with their bombs and cannon. The island battery did not fire a gun for several days together, and the city but a few.

Sunday, 2. Last night we raised a great part of a new battery at the light-house. Two hundred men were at work upon it. The French at the island battery, when they saw it in the morning, were not only surprised, but so incensed at the progress our men had made, that they fired as fast as possible with their bombs and cannon

upon them, and obliged them to draw off. One flanker of this battery fronts the sea, and the other is directly opposite to the island battery; so that we can sweep the platform of the island battery, and command all the shipping that goes in or comes out. The French laid a boom from the east battery to that of the west, in order to prevent any of our fireships from annoying the city, or any of our boats from landing. We had a sermon on the following words: 'Prepare to meet thy God, O Zion!'

Monday, 3. This day a vessel arrived from Boston with a large mortar piece, which was landed, and drawn to the light-house battery. We had advice from the captain that 1,000 men were voluntarily raised to reinforce our troops here; and that we might expect them very soon. We had farther advice that the French fleet of men-of-war were stopt at Brest by our English men-of-war. We

had moreover 600 barrels of powder arrived from Boston, besides stores for the army. This supply of ammunition came very opportunely; for we had not powder sufficient for any more than four rounds at the grand battery. This put new life and spirits into all of us.

Tuesday, 4. This day we fired our cannon and bombs against the city. Both of our mortars proved so defective, that it was not thought safe to make use of them any more. Whereupon a privateer-snow was sent immediately to Annapolis for a fresh supply. We heard such a great number of guns fired at sea, that we concluded there was a smart engagement between our men-of-war and the French.

Wednesday, 5. Last night was taken and brought in a French ship of fourteen carriage guns, and above 300 ton, laden with beef, pork, butter, cheese, pease, beans, brandy, salt, and

other stores for the fishery. This was the ship, it seems, which we heard in the engagement yesterday. The fascine battery played smartly with their bombs and cannon, and to very good effect. In the morning, the French drank to us from the city wall, we being so near that we could speak to each other.

Thursday, 6. This day the French prisoners that were taken in the Vigilant, and some others who were made captives by land, were carried on board Captain Gayton, and several other transports, and the prizes bound for Boston, being in number upwards of 1,000 men.

Friday, 7. This day the prizes and prisoners set sail for Boston, under the convoy of Capt. Gayton and Snelling. Our battery fired smartly.

Saturday, 8. This day we sent a flag of truce to the governor of the city of Louisburg, with a letter from the captain who was taken in the

Vigilant man-of-war, wherein he gave advice that both he and his men were treated in a handsome manner by the English, and desired to know the reason why the English did not meet with the like civil treatment and good quarters at the north-east-harbor and island battery, when requested.

Sunday, 9. Two Switzers last night deserted the French guards in the city, and came to our grand battery, who informed us that there was no meat to be had in all the city; and that the French subsisted wholly on salt fish, bread and peas. They assured us likewise, that there were but about 100 barrels of powder left for all their batteries. To this they added, that the first gun that we drilled and fired from the grand battery killed fourteen of their men. This day our men-of-war went in chase of a large ship, which proved to be a man-of-war, to join our fleet from England. Two valuable prizes were taken and

sent to Boston. A large sloop of 110 tons, from Canada, laden with provisions and bound for Louisburg, was chased by one of our privateers, and ran on shore at the back of the light-house; about fifty men made their escape. We got the vessel off without any damage.

Monday, 10. This day our new battery at the light-house played with three pieces of cannon against the island battery. Our south planker swept the west platform, so that they could not load their cannon. The French would have jumped out of the ambuseers into the sea; but when they found we had but three guns mounted, they fired bombs and shot as fast as possibly they dared to load, from the north flanker. It was all to no purpose, however; for we beat down part of their garrison house.

Tuesday, 11. This day a scout of 230 men (amongst whom I was one) marched out of the grand battery to

Scatteree; we being informed by some prisoners, that several hundreds of French and Indians were coming down upon our camps. Two of our transports landed some ordnance and provisions at the light-house. Though the French at the island battery fired bombs and shot in the morning as fast as possibly they could, yet they did no manner of damage. Last night two boats came safe into the harbor with powder and ball. We had 200 men at work a-nights at the light-house battery. All our batteries fired smartly against the city, and with good effect. As their shot and bombs fell short, we imagined that their powder was near spent.

Wednesday, 12. For three nights past, our boats brought in provisions and stores from Caboruch Bay, by the island battery, without the least interruption. This day our scout of 230 men returned from their march, and found the enemy were moved

off. Yesterday two men-of-war from England joined our fleet. The city threw sixty-two bombs against us from three o'clock in the afternoon to eight the next morning, and a great number of shot besides, which did no great damage. However, our bombs and shot beat down several chimneys and roofs of houses, &c.

Thursday, 13. Yesterday the city fired seventeen bombs and shot against a small battery which we had erected about a mile from the grand battery. Five of them were forty-two pounders. Last night we carried a schooner out of the harbor. Though the island battery fired twenty odd bombs and shot likewise against our light-house battery, yet they did no damage. Our bombs and shot, on the other hand, did considerable execution. The ships of war which lay at anchor before the harbor, are these that follow, viz. Commodore Warren in the Superb, the Hector, the Altham, the Launces-

ton, the Princess Mary, the Mermaid, the Chester, the Canterbury, the Sunderland, the Lark. The Vigilant, a man-of-war of sixty-four guns, taken from the French. Besides these, several twenty-gun ships from New England; also snows, brigantines, and sloops of force, in all above twenty; and moreover 85 transports. Twenty French prizes were taken to this day.

A large privateer brigantine of eighteen carriage guns, and 120 tons, was fitted out, and was to sail the day we landed; but the French immediately scuttled and sunk her in the harbor.

Yesterday we got up a fine sloop which the French had sunk, laden with plank and timber, intended for a new platform, the foundation whereof was laid at the west part of the grand battery, and was to be finished this year; but we have saved them that charge and trouble.

Friday, 14. Last night the large

mortar from Boston was conveyed to the light-house battery, which played against the island battery seven pieces of ordnance, and one mortar, which beat down not only the end of the garrison, but all the chimneys and part of the roof; as also the north ambuseers, and dismounted several guns. When the French saw a bomb coming, they would jump out of the ambuseers into the sea. As the city was highly disgusted at this battery, they fired forty-six bombs and as many shot. On the other hand, our several batteries played all day long, and fired 160 bombs besides shot. Ladders are at this time fitting in order to scale the walls of the city. A great number of shalloways likewise are now fitting in order to land men from the fleet, or take up men in case a man-of-war should be sunk as she came into the harbor.

Saturday, 15. This day our whole fleet of men-of-war, privateers and

transports, made a gallant appearance before the harbor. A flag of truce came from the city, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, to our camps, and offered to deliver up the city on the terms we proposed on our demand of the city, and the territories thereunto belonging, in the name and on the behalf of our Sovereign Lord King George the Second. The consideration of so important an affair was postponed till eight o'clock the next morning, at which time the flag of truce agreed to attend. Whereupon all our batteries ceased firing till farther orders.

Sunday, 16. The French flag of truce came out of the city to our camps, at 8 o'clock this morning; and it was then finally agreed and determined, by capitulation, that the French should have all their personal effects, and likewise be transported to France at the expense of the English. The said articles being thus settled

and adjusted, we have now liberty to march into the city with our land army. The men-of-war likewise, the privateers and transports, may now without interruption anchor in the harbor, &c., &c.

Monday, 17. This day the French flag was struck, and the English one hoisted up in its place at the island battery. We took possession early in the morning. We hoisted likewise the English flag at the grand battery, and our other new batteries; then fired our cannons, and gave three huzzas. At two o'clock in the afternoon, Commodore Warren, with all the men-of-war, as also the prize man-of-war of sixty-four guns; our twenty-gun ships; likewise our snows, brigantines, privateers and transports, came all into Louisburg harbor, which made a beautiful appearance. When all were safely moored, they proceeded to fire on such a victorious and joyful occasion. About four o'clock,

in the afternoon, our land army marched to the south gate of the city, and entered the same, and so proceeded to the parade near the citadel; the French troops at the same time being all drawn up in a very regular order. Our army received the usual salutes from them, every part being performed with all the decency and decorum imaginable. And as the French were allowed to carry off their effects, so our guards took all the care they possibly could to prevent the common soldiers from pilfering and stealing, or otherwise giving them the least molestation. The guard and watch of the city, the garrisons, &c., were delivered to our troops.

Tuesday, 18. Last night a ship came against the mouth of our harbor, and lay there becalmed. In the morning a man-of-war towed out, and fired two shot at her. She answered with one, and then struck.

Whereupon she was towed into the harbor by our boats. She proved to be a storeship of twenty guns, about 300 tons, from France, and very valuable.

Wednesday, 19. This day, upon the nearest computation that could be made, it was agreed on both sides, that since the English had laid siege to the city, &c., that nine thousand shot and six hundred bombs had been discharged by the English against the French.

Thursday, 20. The guns being moved from one of our small batteries to the grand battery, the ambuseers were levelled.

Friday, 21. The guns being moved from the fascine battery into the city, the ambuseers were levelled.

Saturday, 22. More guns moved to the city. The guns likewise at the light-house were dismounted.

Sunday, 23. A sermon preached at the grand battery from the following

words in the third chapter of Revelations: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him," &c.

Monday, 24. Very foggy. We heard several guns at sea. It proved to be Captain Rouse from Annapolis, with three mortars, shells, and shot.

Tuesday, 25. A great number of men were employed to get up the vessels which were sunk in the harbor by the French the very first day we landed. We are in hopes they will prove valuable.

Wednesday, 26. Last night we got off two French vessels that had been hauled ashore. When our men got up, the vessels sunk.

Thursday, 27. This evening several shallops came in from the island Scatteree with French inhabitants, and surrendered themselves on the terms mentioned in the capitulation with the French in the city.

Friday, 28. From this day to July the 4th, we were preparing vessels for the transportation of the French in Louisburg to Rochport in France.

July 4. This day eleven transports set sail, together with the Launceston man-of-war, a forty-gun ship, Captain Man, who was our convoy commander.

There were several occurrences which were very remarkable during the siege. In the first place, all the houses in the city (one only excepted) had some shot through them, more or less; some had their roofs beat down with bombs. As for the famous citadel and hospital, they were almost demolished by bombs and shot. The next thing remarkable was, that from the first day we began the siege to that of our marching into the city, it was such fine weather, that we did not lose one single day in the prosecution of our design. And moreover, that, from the 17th of June to the 4th of July,

(which was the day we sailed for France, with the French inhabitants,) it either rained or the weather was very foggy. Upon which a Frenchman made the following remark, that the Virgin Mary was peculiarly kind to the English, in sending them fair weather during the whole siege, and then in changing it to rain and fog as soon as it was over.—I shall conclude my Journal of the late expedition, and siege against the city of Louisburg, and the territories thereunto belonging, with the following addition. After we had marched into the city, I waited on a gentleman who was inviolably attached to the King of France in Queen Anne's War. This gentleman had taken the New England Country Galley; he had assisted likewise in the taking of seventy sail of vessels more on the coast of New England; and now in the above-mentioned siege, he came out of Louisburg with fourscore and

seven men, in order to prevent our troops from landing, but was happily beat off. This gentleman, I say, told me, that he had not had his clothes off his back, either by night or day, from the first commencement of the siege. He added, moreover, that in all the histories he had ever read, he never met with an instance of so bold and presumptuous an attempt; that it was almost impracticable, as any one would think, for 3,000 or 4,000 raw, undisciplined men to lay siege to such a strong, well-fortified city, such garrisons, batteries, &c.; "for should any one have asked me," said he, "what number of men would have been sufficient to have carried on that very enterprise, I should have answered no less than 30,000." To this he subjoined that he never heard of, or ever saw such courage and intrepidity in such a handful of men, who regarded neither shot nor bombs; but what was still more sur-

prising than all the rest, he said, was this, namely, to see batteries raised in a night's time; and more particularly the fascine battery, which was not five and twenty roods from the city wall; and to see guns, that were forty-two pounders, dragged by the English from their grand battery, notwithstanding it was two miles distant at least, and the road too very rough. May courage, resolution, life, and vigor, be for ever conspicuous in all our English officers and soldiers! for victory, under God, depends principally on their care and conduct: and may the example of the above-named French captain animate us to be bold and daring in a just cause! In a word, may it induce us faithfully to discharge the great, the important trust reposed in us, by virtue of the commissions which we bear under our most gracious Sovereign Lord King George!

Should this be the happy effect of

that gentleman's example, then we may daily expect to make large additions to his majesty's dominions; then we may hope, with just grounds, to defeat the common disturber of our peace and tranquillity; to humble his pride, and make him tributary to us; then, in short, we may reasonably expect to see halcyon days throughout his majesty's extensive dominions, and secure our most excellent constitution both in church and state.

In order to give our readers a transient idea of the ill-treatment we met with at Rochefort in France, I shall here take the liberty, not only to transcribe a letter which I wrote on that subject to an intimate friend, but the petition which twelve of us, in behalf of ourselves and fellow-sufferers, signed, and sent in the most submissive manner to Commodore MacLemarrough, who, like an inhuman savage, turned a deaf ear to our complaints, and rather added to our miseries than any ways relieved us.

[*The Copy of the Letter.*]

Honored Sir,—Pursuant to your request, I here give you a true and impartial account of the cruel and barbarous treatment which we met with from the French at Rochfort in France.

On the fourth of July last, fourteen cartels, with the Launceston man-of-war, set sail from Louisburg at Cape Breton, for France, with French inhabitants. No sooner were we arrived in the roadstead of Rochfort, but Commodore McLemarrough, in a ship of seventy-four guns, obliged us to come to, under his stern, in thirteen fathom of water. We obeyed, and showed our passports, which when he had read, he insisted that every master should deliver into his hands his particular journal. Some looking on it as an unreasonable demand, with resolution opposed it, but

were confined in irons on his ship for their refusal. Soon after, he sent for me on board; and I attended accordingly. Being admitted into the cabin, he ordered me to sit down at his green table, and give an account of my own proceedings in writing; which orders I readily complied with. Having finished my declaration, I delivered it into his hands; and upon the receipt of it, he told me in direct terms, that the cartels could expect no favor at Rochport; and that, as for my own particular part, since he was credibly informed by several of the passengers, that I had been a very busy, active fellow against the interest of his most Christian Majesty at Louisburg, in case he could find out any article whatever that was in the least contradictory to the declaration I had delivered, that he would send me to the tower. Whereupon he immediately sent on board for my trunk, and insisted on my giving him the

key. I did, and he took out all my papers, and read them over in the first place. After that, he broke open the letters which I had directed for London. Those, indeed, he sealed up again, and, having put them into the trunk, dismissed me. His next orders were, that the cartels should not presume to go on board their convoy, the Launceston, on any pretence whatever, without his permission. He charged us likewise not to go on shore, and gave strict orders to the garrison to watch us night and day; and, in case any of us attempted to set foot on shore, the guards were directed to shoot us without asking any questions about the matter. His severity, in short, extended so far as not to permit a boat to bring us the least supply of any nature or kind whatsoever; insomuch that we were obliged to live wholly on salt provisions, and drink water that was ropy, and very offensive to the smell,

for above six weeks successively. When this cruel commodore set sail with his fleet, with about two hundred sail of merchantmen and seven men-of-war for Hispaniola, another commodore supplied his place. On Sunday eve he sent out a yawl, with orders for all the cartels to unbend their sails. We did as directed, and on Monday morning his men came in their long-boat, and carried all our sails on shore into the garrison; which surprised us to the last degree, as we had been detained so long, and lived in expectation of our passports every day. At this unhappy juncture, Capt. Robert Man, who was commander of the Launceston, was taken violently ill of a fever; and notwithstanding intercession was made that he might be removed on shore, as the noise on board affected his head too much, yet the favor was inhumanly denied him; and every officer in the ship besides. As to the poor English prisoners,

they were used in a most barbarous manner; for their principal food was horse-beans, and about an inch of beef once in about twenty-four hours. Besides, they were so close imprisoned, that some of them fainted away for want of air; and had it not been for the private charitable relief which they received from a good old Protestant lady, several of them must have been actually starved. Nay, moreover, when any of them were sick, she would visit them, and bring them prayer-books, and other books of devotion, which she concealed in a chest under ground; and then would exhort them to put their trust and confidence in God, who in his own due time would deliver them out of the hands of their arbitrary and blood-thirsty enemies. And if any died, she would send coffins privately by night for the removal of their bodies, and bury them at her own expense. One of these poor wretches was in such a

weak and sickly condition, that, being thirsty, and inclining his head to drink out of a stone font, he had not strength to raise it again, and by that means was unhappily strangled. All, in short, that lived to come on board, were so weak that they could scarce crawl upon the deck. As our treatment from the French was in every respect so cruel and inhuman, a petition or remonstrance to Commodore MacLemarrough was drawn up, and signed on the 25th of August, 1745, by twelve of us; the purport whereof was as follows:

That the petitioners were taken up at the city of Louisburg, in his Britannic Majesty's service on the 20th of June then last past, in order to transport the French inhabitants of that city to Rochfort.

That the petitioners were well assured by General Pepperill and Commodore Warren, as also by the com-

to shoot every Englishman that attempted to go on shore, without asking any questions whatsoever.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES GIBSON.

The news of this victory arrived at Boston on the third of July. The effects it produced are well described in a letter from Dr. Chaney to Gen. Pepperell. He says: "The people of Boston before sun-rise were as thick in the streets as on election day, and a pleasing joy visibly sat on every countenance."—"We had last night the finest illumination I ever witnessed. There was not a house in town, in by-way, lane, or alley, but joy might be seen in its windows. The night was also made joyful by bonfires, fireworks, and other tokens of rejoicing. Besides this, an enter-

tainment was given to the people. The 18th of July was observed through the Commonwealth as a day of thanksgiving for this event; and it was universally observed in a manner becoming a people who saw in it the hand of an over-ruling Providence."

Dr. Prince preached a sermon on that occasion at the "Old South Church," which exhibits more freely than any other the religious feeling of those engaged in it. "When they embarked," he tells us, "their language to their friends whom they were about leaving was: '*Pray for us, and we will fight for you!*'"

After narrating the most remarkable events in the enterprise, he concludes in this somewhat extravagant language: "Let us not only rejoice in our own salvation, but let our joy rise higher, that hereby a great support of anti-christian power is taken away, and the visible kingdom of Christ enlarged. Methinks when the

southern gates of Louisburg were opened, and our army with their banners were marching in — the gates were lifted up, and the King of glory went in with them."

On returning to Boston, James Gibson was joyfully received by his little family, and the citizens generally, to whom he had rendered so important services. At the close of the siege, the treasury of the province of Massachusetts was completely exhausted. England, on hearing of the service rendered by the colonies, sent on a ship laden with specie to reimburse the expenses of the siege. The rate of indemnities was thus expressed in a resolution passed in Parliament, April 1, 1748: —

Resolved, 1st, That it is just and reasonable that the several provinces and colonies of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, be reimbursed the ex-

penses they have been at, in taking and securing to the crown of Great Britain, the island of Cape Breton and its dependencies; therefore, resolved to grant for this purpose,—

2d, To the Province of Massachusetts Bay, £183,649. 2*s*. 7½*d*.

3d, To that of New Hampshire, £16,355. 13*s*. 4*d*.

4th, To that of Connecticut, £28,863. 19*s*. 1*d*.

5th, To that of Rhode Island, £6,332. 12*s*. 10*d*.

6th, To James Gibson, Esq., on ditto account, £547. 15*s*.

The amount due Massachusetts and New Hampshire was all paid at one time, in silver and copper, there being sent over 215 chests of silver and 100 of copper. This was a great relief to the treasuries of the colonies.

But the amount allowed by Parliament to James Gibson was not paid with the other reimbursements, and

we have no evidence that it has ever been paid to this day.

The inhabitants of the colonies expected, that, for their distinguished services, the officers in this siege would be noticed and rewarded by the crown. But in all this they were disappointed; the order of knighthood conferred on Gen. Pepperell was all the mark of distinction received from the English government.

The amount sent over to the colonies fell far below the actual expense, which is said to have amounted to £500,000 sterling. The English received three times this amount from the French taken at Louisburg.

When Mr. Gibson was in London, on his return from France, he left a bill of the amount which he had actually given from his own purse for the expedition, which amounted to £547. 15*s*.

In volume 18 and on page 223 of the Gentleman's Magazine, we find

in a report of the proceedings of Parliament the following statement:—

"To show the sense of the House of Commons in it, he gives the expenses of taking Louisburg, and explains the article of £547 voted to James Gibson, Esq., who sought no reward for his services but a small office vacant in one of our plantations. But it was given to a domestic of the king, under whom Mr. Gibson might have enjoyed it; but he refused the favor of serving under His Grace's serving-man."

After his return to Boston, Mr. Gibson again resumed his business, in which he continued several years. During this time, he occasionally went to the West Indies.

A man in the Island of Jamaica had been the occasion of heavy losses in property to Mr. Gibson. He therefore was obliged to leave his family in Boston, and go out to settle his affairs in the West Indies. With this

man Mr. G. had some collision; but on the day he was to have returned to America, he came forward, and, acknowledging he had done him much injustice, promised a satisfactory adjustment, and with artful dissimulation invited him to dine with him. The invitation was accepted by the forgiving Gibson. He went to dinner, and immediately after set sail for the north, when in three hours he was suddenly taken ill, and, in great agony, died. Suspicions were instantly entertained that he was poisoned at the dinner.

The stroke was too severe for his afflicted widow, who soon died of grief, leaving her young and lovely daughter alone without a relation in Massachusetts. The event of her death was recorded in the records of King's Chapel in Boston, where she had long been a member, as occurring on the 13th of November, 1752. A portrait of Mr. Gibson is still in

the possession of his descendants, set in a curiously carved and gilded frame of expensive workmanship. Also, his coat of arms, presented to J. Gibson as a memento of respect and affection by Bishop Gibson, with the autograph of the Bishop on the reverse of the picture. The device embraces a view of land and sky, with three storks rising on the wing, and a crest from a ducal coronet.

By the death of her parents, Mary Gibson was left at the age of fourteen an orphan, without any protection but such as the law provides in such cases.

A man by the name of Butler was appointed her guardian, upon whom the settlement of the property devolved.

This person placed Mary under the care of the Rev. Mr. Niles of Braintree, with whom he made an agreement that she should receive a good

education, and left funds in his hands for this purpose.

It was most providential for Mary, that she was thus placed under the guidance of so excellent a man.

Having thus disposed of the young orphan, Butler returned to manage the property, of which she was the only heir, in a manner suited to his corrupt and fraudulent designs.

The laws of probate in the infant colonies being slightly managed at that time, Butler rendered the estate of Gibson insolvent!

While a member of Mr. Niles's family, Mary imbibed those religious principles which ever after influenced her life. She was early united to a gentleman by the name of Hayden, and became a member of the church at Braintree.

She lost her husband, however, a short time after her marriage.

She was subsequently united to Nehemiah Blanchard, and became

the mother of three daughters. Her husband made great exertions to obtain a portion of the property so fraudulently disposed of by her guardian Butler.

This man seemed to be followed by the judgment of God, and when thrown into jail for some crime, sent for Mary, now Mrs. Blanchard, and, while suffering much mental remorse, confessed he had robbed her; at the same time delivering to her certain papers, relating to her father's property, some of which was in lands lying in a place then called Stroudwater, near Portland, Maine, and other lands in Maine. These papers are still extant.

Mr. Blanchard made a journey to the province of Maine, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of a tract of land owned by Mr. Gibson. But while attempting to cross the Kennebec River on the ice, in the spring time of the year, he fell into an

air-hole in the river, and was drowned. His valise was found on the ice, near the spot where he disappeared.

Mrs. Blanchard, disheartened at the loss of her husband in this unhappy manner, and so unfortunate in obtaining any portion of her father's estate, desisted from any further attempt to recover it; trusting herself in the kind care of the widow's God, never afterward attempting to make use of the papers in her possession.

A third time was she united in marriage, to Dr. Carter, and removed to Charlestown, to lay in the grave her third husband!

She spent most of the remainder of her life with her daughter; and after having endured the trying fortunes of a varied life, with a firm and unchanging reliance in the wise and good Director of the Universe, she died universally esteemed, in the eighty-eighth year of her age, in Bangor, New York.

The son-in-law of this lady, who is now living and eighty-four years of age, affirms that, in the year 1790, he found on the leaf of an old magazine, which was sent to the widow Mrs. Blanchard, an advertisement, authorized by the British Parliament, stating that, if there were any heirs of James Gibson, Esq., in the United States, the British government had money for them, awaiting their pleasure.

The gentleman above alluded to, residing in the State of Vermont, commenced preparations for going to England, and endeavoring to recover the debt so rightfully due to James Gibson. But for want of means at the time, he gave it up, and it has been suffered to lie dormant ever since.*

* This gentleman, son-in-law to the only heir of James Gibson, says that there resided a family in Boston by the name of Perkins, members of the Old South Church in that city, who knew more than any one in America of the history of

James Gibson. With the hope of finding a more complete account of his life than that now in our possession, we have endeavored to find the descendants of such a family; but all these efforts have hitherto been fruitless. Should the perusal of this little sketch be the occasion of recovering any information that would add a single historical fact to the incidents here narrated, the descendants would be greatly obliged. Any such communication addressed through the Boston Post Office, would reach them directed to L. D. J.

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